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PRESS RELEASE

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REHABILITATED DRINKING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN TURSUNZODA DISTRICT

DUSHANBE — The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) officially handed over a rehabilitated drinking water system for the residents of Hakikat village, May First Jamoat, in Tursunzoda District. The Tursunzoda District Chairman Mr. Davlatsho Gulmahmadov and USAID's Deputy Director for Tajikistan, Mr. Kevin Dean led the ceremony along with representatives of the district and jamoat administrations and local residents of May First Jamoat. The project is part of USAID's Local Development Initiative, which works in six districts of Tajikistan to improve the quality of local governance and service delivery.

Mr. Dean commented that, "Increased access to clean drinking water is needed throughout Tajikistan to improve the population's health and quality of life, and USAID is proud to help with this effort. This project hopes to model a system in which drinking water can be managed successfully in the long term."

This project brings clean water to 1,800 citizens of the Hakikat village through rehabilitation of an entire small water system, including renovation of a well, replacement of an old pump, replacement of pipes, and repair of the water tank. The water tank rehabilitation allows residents of the village to access water 24 hours a day. This is especially crucial during the autumn-winter period, when electricity supply is limited.

Ensuring sustainability in the operation of the water supply entities is one of USAID's main goals in Tajikistan. The refurbished water system in May First Jamoat is owned by the jamoat, which provides staffing, maintenance, and fee collection to ensure continued operation of the system. There are 12 water supply entities on the territory of the jamoat. As part of the project, USAID continues to train the jamoat's representatives and water supply specialists on tariff setting, fee collection, accounting, and effective maintenance and operation of water intakes and pump facilities.

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